APPENDIX II.

[*Vide* ANSWER TO INTERPELLATION NO. 22 (*c*) ASKED BY MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR AT THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 1920]

The following funds are available under the head of 'Oathoottu':—

Places.			*Amount per year.* Rs.	ch.	c.
(1) Kaviyur, Tiruvalla	...	...	509	4	0
(2) Mavelikara	...	...	60	0	0
(3) Kainikkara, Alangad	...	...	10	26	0
		Total.....	580	2	0

President:—

"Gentlemen,

In regard to interpellations, I have to say a word. I would invite the attention of the members to Rule 8 of the Rules for the asking of questions in the Council, particularly to the portion which says that interpellations shall not contain arguments and inferences and shall not ask for an expression of opinion or solution of hypothetical propositions. I hope I shall not be misunderstood if I say that some of the questions that were put to the Council with a view to obtain answers at this meeting contravene the conditions of this Rule, especially those put by Mr. Nidiry. He has asked for the opinion of Government on a number of matters; he is handicapping the Government in asking them to express an opinion. Thereby, Government are prevented from giving information which otherwise they would be prepared to give. Such questions could be ruled out under the above-mentioned rule, but I did not wish to do so lest the Government should be misunderstood. I shall be glad if the members would put their questions in a definite form. Government will always be ready to give all information on matters on which information can be given."

The Secretary reported that the Estates Rent Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill which was finally passed by the Council on the 24th February 1921 received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the 30th March 1921 and became law as Regulation IV of 1096.

The Secretary then reported the following petitions:—

Serial No.	*From whom.*	*Date.*
	(*a*) *Regarding the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill.*	
1	C. G. Krishnan Nair, President, Pampadi Nair Samajam.	14th Kumbham 1096.
2	G. Narayana Pillai B. A. & B. L., President, public meeting, Vallankulam, Kottayam.	27th Medam 1096.
3	Unnikrishna Kaimal, President, N. N. K. Nair Samajam, Talavadi.	28th Medam 1096.
4	Senior Koil Tampuran, Kilimanur.	16th Edavam 1096.
	(*b*) *Regarding the Land Assignment Bill.*	
1	Senior Koil Tampuran, Kilimanur.	15th Edavam 1096.

THE LEPERS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Lepers Regulation, III of 1077, as amended by Regulation III of 1089. The Bill consists of only a few Clauses and it does not contain matters of a controversial nature. Under the existing Regulation, all pauper lepers (which class includes those lepers who have no ostensible means of living or who exhibit their sores, etc., in public for exciting charity, or obtaining alms) may be compulsorily segregated, that is to say, the Police officers may arrest them and take them to the Inspector of Lepers who may direct them to the Magistrates, and the Magistrates may after the necessary enquiry order that they should be kept in a Leper Asylum. With reference to the other class of lepers, the Regulation contemplates the issuing of a notification by Government prohibiting them from exercising certain callings, as also travelling in public conveyances and other things. Although compulsory segregation may go a great way to remove the spread of the infectious disease, it has been found from practical experience that the definition of 'leper' as given in the Regulation does not go as far as is desirable. The definition says that a leper is one who suffers from a form of leprosy which is in an ulcerous stage. But expert medical opinion is to the effect that leprosy is contagious even when it is not in an ulcerous stage. The Durbar Physician and the Trivandrum

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Municipality both think that it is necessary that the definition of 'leper' should be amended so as to include cases where ulcer has not begun to set in. It has been thought necessary to amend the definition of the word 'leper' accordingly. This amendment follows exactly the British Indian law on the subject. This is the first amendment. The second amendment in the Bill is only a verbal one. As the Regulation stands, it is the Government that have to make provision for a Leper Asylum. The amendment makes it possible for Government to recognise private institutions if Government are satisfied that suitable arrangements have been made or will be made therein for the detention of pauper lepers. The third amendment that is proposed to be introduced in the Regulation is with a view to enable Government to empower persons other than Police officers to arrest pauper lepers. As the Regulation stands, only Police officers are empowered to arrest pauper lepers. In many cases, it is not possible for them to do so. Probably, they may not also be anxious to do so. The Municipal Councils which are responsible for the health of their Municipalities and the Sanitary Department which is responsible for the health of the rural areas will be very anxious to see that these pauper lepers are arrested and taken before a Magistrate in order that they may be confined in a Leper Asylum. It is therefore thought desirable that the Government should be empowered to invest persons other than Police officers with powers to arrest such lepers. Lastly, though there is the general provision in the Regulation empowering Government to prohibit by notification lepers from exercising any profession, it is thought desirable that, in the case of some specific professions such as those of the washerman, ironer, etc., who are lepers and who do service to the public, express provision should be made in the Regulation itself prohibiting them from exercising their callings. These are the few amendments sought to be introduced by the Bill and, as I have said, they are not at all of a controversial nature, and I hope that they will meet with the acceptance of the Council. With these words, I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed."

Seconded by Mr. Nidiry.

Carried.

President:—

"I presume that no member is anxious to say anything about this absolutely non-controversial measure, and it seems to me hardly necessary to refer it to a Select Committee. The Bill may be taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the Council."

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the Bill need not be referred to a Select Committee.

Seconded by Dr. Kunjan Pillai.

Carried.

THE ANCHAL REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar:—

"SIR,

I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Anchal Regulation, IX of 1089. The circumstances that led to the introduction of the Bill are these. The recent revision of salaries in the Anchal Department increased the expenditure of that Department, and it was felt that the expenditure of the Department should be met out of the receipts from that Department. Therefore, an emergency Regulation was passed by Government modifying the Schedule of Anchal rates to some extent. That Regulation will be in force only up to the end of Chingam 1097. The present Bill has therefore been introduced to amend the Schedule. The Bill empowers the Government to fix the rates of postage, registration fee, money orders, etc., below the maximum fixed in the Schedule. Though the Schedule fixes the maximum rates, it is not the object of Government that these rates should be brought into force immediately. It is only when a necessity arises that the rates will be raised by means of a notification up to the maxima fixed in the Schedule. This provision is necessary as it may not be feasible to bring an amending Bill before the Council on each occasion whenever the rates have to be increased to keep pace with the postal rates elsewhere. The members are aware of the delay that is incidental to the passing of a measure through the Council. The Bill has to be printed in advance and published a month before the meeting. Then it goes to a Select Committee and it has to be considered by that Committee and then by the Council. Again after an interval of time the Bill has to be finally passed. The practice in British India, where at the budget meeting such Bills are introduced, may be known to the members. There, the Bill is introduced and discussed and passed at the same session, and, before the session closes, the Bill becomes law. That is not possible here. Whenever a revision has to be effected in the rates, it will take roughly eight months to have it done. It is to avoid this delay that the present provision has been made. In Travancore itself we have the Post office and the Anchal office. The Council may know without any explanation from me that the Anchal rates are always less than the postal rates. There need therefore be no

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